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AN ENERGY STAR BUILDINGSSM AND GREEN LIGHTS[®] CASE STUDY FOR Mervyn's

Project Director

K.C. Mares

Partner Since

1995

Total Committed Square Footage

24.7 million

Location

"Retailers should take a look at the whole picture of energy use and the value that energy-efficiency upgrades can add to the company. This program just makes good business sense."

– K.C. Mares

While some retailers may see energy costs as part of their unavoidable overhead which they are powerless to influence, Mervyn's California integrates energy efficiency into everyday business to succeed in the EPA's Green Lights[®] and ENERGY STAR BuildingsSM Partnership. For the last few years, Mervyn's has shown that retailers can do something about their energy consumption to improve profit margins without compromising customer and employee comfort.

By establishing company policy and educating employees about energy consumption, Mervyn's reinforced its commitment to energy management and the environment. The company has combined state-of-the-art technical upgrades with employee scheduling and behavioral changes, and now saves an average of 12,000 kWh per year in each of its stores.

As part of its technical changes, Mervyn's installed additional energy management controls such as lighting

		Progress to Date
Project Costs	Total Expenditures	\$10.4 million
	Dollars Per Square Foot	\$0.49
	Total Square Footage Upgraded	21.5 million
	Percent Upgraded	xx%
Cost Savings	Annual Dollar Savings	\$7 million
	Dollar Savings Per Square Foot	\$0.33
	Internal Rate of Return (IRR)	51.2%
Energy Savings	Annual kWh Savings	27.9 million
Pollution Prevention	Annual Carbon Dioxide (lbs.)*	27.9 million
	Equivalent Cars off the Road	279
	Equivalent Acres of Trees Planted	xxx



occupancy sensors. These controls were programmed to power down the existing energy systems in order to save energy during non-use periods, as well as to establish a constant operating framework for all stores. To maximize these savings, Mervyn's consolidated its janitorial and stocking activities and made each store team accountable for energy usage beyond the core hours established by headquarter's policies. Combining employees' new knowledge of energy efficiency with the installation of energy-efficient T8s, electronic ballasts, HVAC systems, and other technologies will improve Mervyn's competitiveness by positively impacting its bottom line while improving the overall shopping experience for customers.

Confident in the benefits of energy efficiency, Mervyn's found a match between its policies and those of ENERGY STAR Buildings and Green Lights, and is continually motivated to become more and more energy-efficient as it seeks to complete its building-wide upgrades in the next few years.

